

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented user interface configu-
2 ration method, comprising:

3 detecting a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface,
4 based on user behavior with respect to the user interface;
5 and
6 automatically configuring at least one functional component of the
7 user interface responsive to the detected proficiency level.

1 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically
2 configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises:
3 selecting at least one configuration option from a plurality of con-
4 figuration options.

1 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically
2 configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises
3 at least one selected from the group consisting of:
4 enabling access to a functional user interface element;
5 disabling access to a functional user interface element; and

6 changing an appearance of a functional user interface element.

1 4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically
2 configuring the at least one functional component of the user interface comprises
3 at least one selected from the group consisting of:

4 enabling access to a command;

5 disabling access to a command;

6 changing an appearance of a command;

7 enabling access to a menu;

8 disabling access to a menu;

9 changing an appearance of a menu;

10 enabling access to a button;

11 disabling access to a button;

12 changing an appearance of a button;

13 enabling access to a shortcut; and

14 disabling access to a shortcut; ~~and~~

15 ~~changing an appearance of a command.~~

1 5. (Cancelled).

1 6. (Cancelled).

1 7. (Cancelled).

1 8. (Cancelled).

1 9. (Cancelled).

1 10. (Cancelled).

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 outputting a notification of a change to user interface configuration.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 outputting a notification of at least one newly enabled user inter-
3 face feature.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level and automatically configuring the user interface are performed re-
3 sponsive to a trigger event.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event com-
2 prises user input requesting user interface configuration.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event com-
2 prises application startup.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event com-
2 prises system startup.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event com-
2 prises a change in user behavior with respect to the user interface.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the trigger event com-
2 prises user logon.

1 19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the
2 user proficiency level and automatically configuring the at least one functional
3 component of the user interface are performed periodically.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises reading a stored user proficiency level derived from at
3 least one marker.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the marker indicates his-
2 torical usage of the user interface.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting whether a user interface element has been used.

1 23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting whether a user interface element has been used
3 a number of times exceeding a predetermined threshold.

1 24. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting a total amount of time spent by a user using an
3 application.

1 25. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting how many applications are open concurrently.

1 26. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting a historical average number of concurrently
3 open applications.

1 27. (Cancelled).

1 28. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting how many windows are open concurrently.

1 29. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting a historical average number of concurrently
3 open windows.

1 30. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting a user-specified preference indicating a profi-
3 ciency level.

1 31. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting web page visitation patterns.

1 32. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting historical usage of secure web pages.

1 33. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises detecting historical usage of web pages having active con-
3 tent.

1 34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 detecting the user proficiency level comprises detecting the user
3 proficiency level with respect to a user interface component
4 less than the entire user interface; and
5 automatically configuring the at least one functional component of
6 the user interface comprises automatically configuring the
7 user interface component without altering the configuration
8 of the remainder of the user interface.

1 35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 detecting the user proficiency level comprises detecting the user
3 proficiency level with respect to an application; and
4 automatically configuring the at least one functional component of
5 the user interface comprises automatically configuring the
6 user interface for the application.

1 36. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 responsive to user behavior with respect to the user interface, stor-
3 ing a marker indicating a user proficiency level;
4 and wherein detecting the user proficiency level comprises reading
5 the stored marker.

1 37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein:
2 storing the marker is performed by a first application; and
3 reading the stored marker is performed by a background process.

1 38. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein:
2 storing the marker is performed by a first application; and
3 reading the stored marker is performed by a second application dif-
4 ferent from the first application.

1 39. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein:

2 storing the marker is performed by an operating system; and
3 reading the stored marker is performed by the operating system.

1 40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39, wherein:
2 automatically configuring the at least one functional component of
3 the user interface comprises modifying functional user inter-
4 face elements that are supplied to a plurality of applications.

1 41. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein:
2 storing the marker is performed by an operating system; and
3 reading the stored marker is performed by an application.

1 42. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the user profi-
2 ciency level comprises retrieving a plurality of stored markers and aggregating
3 the retrieved markers to derive a proficiency level.

1 43. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 responsive to user behavior with respect to the user interface, stor-
3 ing a plurality of markers;
4 and wherein detecting the user proficiency level comprises retriev-
5 ing at least a subset of the stored markers and aggregating
6 the retrieved markers to derive a proficiency level.

1 44. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 accepting user input overriding the user interface configuration
3 and specifying a desired configuration; and
4 responsive to the user input, configuring the user interface accord-
5 ing to the desired configuration.
6

1 45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 detecting a user proficiency level with respect to a user interface
3 comprises detecting a user proficiency level with respect to a
4 user interface of a web-resident application being run from a
5 client machine; and
6 automatically configuring the at least one functional component of
7 the user interface comprises automatically configuring at
8 least one functional user interface element for the web-
9 resident application.
10

1 46. (Currently amended) A computer program product for configuring a
2 user interface, comprising:
3 a computer-readable medium; and
4 computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:

5 detecting a user proficiency level with respect to a user inter-
6 face, based on user behavior with respect to the user in-
7 terface; and
8 automatically configuring at least one functional component of
9 the user interface responsive to the detected proficiency
10 level.

1 47. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 46,
2 wherein the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least
3 one functional component of the user interface comprises computer program
4 code for:

5 selecting at least one configuration option from a plurality of con-
6 figuration options.

1 48. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 46,
2 wherein the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least
3 one functional component of the user interface comprises at least one selected
4 from the group consisting of:

5 computer program code for enabling access to a functional user in-
6 terface element;
7 computer program code for disabling access to a functional user in-
8 terface element; and

9 computer program code for changing an appearance of a functional
10 user interface element.

1 49. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 46,
2 wherein the computer program code for automatically configuring the at least
3 one functional component of the user interface comprises at least one selected
4 from the group consisting of:

5 computer program code for enabling access to a command;
6 computer program code for disabling access to a command;
7 computer program code for changing an appearance of a com-
8 mand;
9 computer program code for enabling access to a menu;
10 computer program code for disabling access to a menu;
11 computer program code for changing an appearance of a menu;
12 computer program code for enabling access to a button;
13 computer program code for disabling access to a button;
14 computer program code for changing an appearance of a button;
15 computer program code for enabling access to a shortcut; and
16 computer program code for disabling access to a shortcut; ~~and~~
17 ~~computer program code for changing an appearance of a com-~~
18 ~~mand.~~

1 50. (Cancelled).

1 51. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 46,
2 wherein the computer program code for detecting the user proficiency level and
3 automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user inter-
4 face comprises computer program code for performing the detecting and config-
5 uring steps responsive to a trigger event.

1 52. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 46,
2 wherein the computer program code for detecting the user proficiency level and
3 automatically configuring the at least one functional component of the user inter-
4 face comprises computer program code for performing the detecting and config-
5 uring steps periodically.

1 53. (Original) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the
2 computer program code for detecting the user proficiency level comprises com-
3 puter program code for reading a stored user proficiency level derived from at
4 least one marker.

1 54. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 46,
2 wherein:
3 the computer program code for detecting the user proficiency level
4 comprises computer program code for detecting the user

5 proficiency level with respect to a user interface component
6 less than the entire user interface; and
7 the computer program code for automatically configuring the at
8 least one functional component of the user interface com-
9 prises computer program code for automatically configuring
10 the functional user interface component without altering the
11 configuration of the remainder of the user interface.

1 55. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 46,
2 wherein:
3 the computer program code for detecting the user proficiency level
4 comprises computer program code for detecting the user
5 proficiency level with respect to an application; and
6 the computer program code for automatically configuring the at
7 least one functional component of the user interface com-
8 prises computer program code for automatically configuring
9 the user interface for the application.

1 56. (Original) The computer program product of claim 46, further com-
2 prising:
3 computer program code for, responsive to user behavior with re-
4 spect to the user interface, storing a marker indicating a user
5 proficiency level;

6 and wherein the computer program code for detecting the user pro-
7 ficiency level comprises computer program code for reading
8 the stored marker.

1 57. (Original) The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the
2 computer program code for detecting the user proficiency level comprises com-
3 puter program code for retrieving a plurality of stored markers and aggregating
4 the retrieved markers to derive a proficiency level.

1 58. (Original) The computer program product of claim 46, further com-
2 prising:

3 computer program code for, responsive to user behavior with re-
4 spect to the user interface, storing a plurality of markers;
5 and wherein the computer program code for detecting the user pro-
6 ficiency level comprises computer program code for retriev-
7 ing at least a subset of the stored markers and aggregating
8 the retrieved markers to derive a proficiency level.

1 59. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 46,
2 wherein:
3 the computer program code for detecting a user proficiency level
4 with respect to a user interface comprises computer program
5 code for detecting a user proficiency level with respect to a

6 user interface of a web-resident application being run from a
7 client machine; and
8 the computer program code for automatically configuring the at
9 least one functional component of the user interface com-
10 prises computer program code for automatically configuring
11 at least one functional user interface element for the web-
12 resident application.

1 60. (Currently amended) A system for configuring a user interface, com-
2 prising:

3 means for detecting a user proficiency level with respect to a user
4 interface, based on user behavior with respect to the user in-
5 terface; and
6 means for automatically configuring at least one functional compo-
7 nent of the user interface responsive to the detected profi-
8 ciency level.

1 61. (Currently amended) A system for configuring a user interface, com-
2 prising:

3 a user proficiency level detector, for detecting a user proficiency
4 level with respect to a user interface, based on user behavior
5 with respect to the user interface; and

6 a user interface configuration module, coupled to the user profi-
7 ciency level detector, for automatically configuring at least
8 one functional component of the user interface responsive to
9 the detected proficiency level.

1 62. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the user interface configu-
2 ration module selects at least one configuration option from a plurality of con-
3 figuration options.

1 63. (Currently amended) The system of claim 61, wherein the user inter-
2 face configuration module performs at least one selected from the group consist-
3 ing of:

4 enabling access to a functional user interface element;
5 disabling access to a functional user interface element; and
6 changing an appearance of a functional user interface element.

1 64. (Currently amended) The system of claim 61, wherein the user inter-
2 face configuration module performs at least one selected from the group consist-
3 ing of:

4 enabling access to a command;
5 disabling access to a command;
6 changing an appearance of a command;
7 enabling access to a menu;

8 disabling access to a menu;
9 changing an appearance of a menu;
10 enabling access to a button;
11 disabling access to a button;
12 changing an appearance of a button;
13 enabling access to a shortcut; and
14 disabling access to a shortcut; ~~and~~
15 ~~changing an appearance of a command.~~

1 65. (Cancelled).

1 66. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level
2 detector and the user interface configuration module operate responsive to a
3 trigger event.

1 67. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level
2 detector and the user interface configuration module operate periodically.

1 68. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level
2 detector reads a stored user proficiency level derived from at least one marker.

1 69. (Currently amended) The system of claim 61, wherein:

2 the user proficiency level detector detects the user proficiency level
3 with respect to a user interface component less than the en-
4 tire user interface; and
5 the user interface configuration module automatically configures
6 the at least one functional component of the user interface
7 component without altering the configuration of the re-
8 mainder of the user interface.

1 70. (Currently amended) The system of claim 61, wherein:
2 the user proficiency level detector detects the user proficiency level
3 with respect to an application; and
4 the user interface configuration module automatically configures
5 the at least one functional component of the user interface
6 for the application.

1 71. (Original) The system of claim 61, further comprising:
2 a marker storage device, for, responsive to user behavior with re-
3 spect to the user interface, storing a marker indicating a user
4 proficiency level;
5 wherein the user proficiency level detector reads the stored marker
6 from the marker storage device.

1 72. (Original) The system of claim 61, wherein the user proficiency level
2 detector retrieves a plurality of stored markers and aggregates the retrieved
3 markers to derive a proficiency level.

1 73. (Original) The system of claim 61, further comprising:
2 a marker storage device, for, responsive to user behavior with re-
3 spect to the user interface, storing a plurality of markers;
4 wherein the user proficiency level detector retrieves at least a sub-
5 set of the stored markers and aggregates the retrieved mark-
6 ers to derive a proficiency level.

1 74. (Currently amended) The system of claim 61, wherein:
2 the user proficiency level detector detects a user proficiency level with
3 respect to a user interface of a web-resident application being
4 run from a client machine; and
5 the user interface configuration module automatically configures at
6 least one functional user interface element for the web-resident
7 application.